

T H E  
Usurpations of France  
UPON THE  
TRADE  
OF THE  
WOOLLEN MANUFACTURE  
OF  
ENGLAND  
BRIEFLY HINTED AT;

Being the EFFECTS of  
Thirty Years Observations, by which that  
King hath been Enabled to wage War  
with so great a Part of EUROPE.  
OR, A

Caution to England

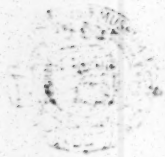
To Improve a Season now put into Her Hand, to  
Secure Her Self.

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By WILLIAM CARTER.

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# THE PREFACE.

**T**HE Subject of the following Discourse being matter of Fact, the less Apology will be required; nor needs it many Arguments to Demonstrate what we see and feel, viz. That the French have within this 40 Tears, not only by Increase of Trade, Enriched their Country, but also Multiplied their Shipping to that degree, that the Effect thereof hath occasioned the Effusion of so much Blood and Treasure in these late Tears; and how much more few can tell.

The Consequences that have happened, I long since fore-saw, and publickly declared my Fears, that unless some speedy method were taken, the French would in a short time Engross the whole Woollen-Manufacture, and consequently Trade it self, to the irreparable Damage of this Kingdom.

And tho' the War with France hath cost Us so many Millions, yet I question not but the Perusal of the following Sheets will convince all Persons, that rather regard the Publick Interest than some Private Convenience that may attend themselves; that had there been no War (speaking humanely) we should have (ere this time) lost the whole Profit of the Exportation of the said Woollen-Manufacture, (amounting to several Millions in Value Tearly;) the French (before the War) having made so great Progress therein, that they had not only Prohibited our Cloth and Stuffs to be Imported into France, but had also so far advanced themselves in that Manufacture, as to Export the same into many Foreign Parts, as Mr. Andrew Marvel hath formerly shewed at large, in a Paper Printed in the Tear 1677, a part of which is inserted in the following Discourse.

And if this be the true state of the Case in the Infancy of the said Woollen-Manufacture in France, as it was before the War (if a Peace were concluded) what the Consequences will be when that King shall enlarge and bring it to a greater Perfection, rational and wise Men may judge

And when ever a Peace may be Concluded betwixt England and France, unless such a Provision be made while we are at War to keep the Ballance of Trade, I do foresee (who have been almost 30 Tears observing the Designs of France to get the Trade from Us) the evil Consequence to England of that Peace which may end in our Ruine; as was admirably well observed lately by another Hand, viz. That  
Peace



## THE PREFACE

Peace made up with an Enemy, whose Power is too Strong, and his Fidelity too Weak, is only a Cob-Web-Lawn to break through at pleasure; and a Reconciliation of Friendship with such a Prince, is the only means to Impower him, to be more Dangerous, because then a more Surprising Enemy: Should *France* in her Present (or rather Late Greatness) give a Cessation to Hostility, 'tis certain she can never give a Cessation to her Ambition; and 'tis as certain that War is only rak'd up, not quench'd, when the Coals of Ambition are still glowing, that at any convenient Rupture may set it fresh a blazing, to that Aspirer that so visibly aims at Universal Monarchy; Universal Peace can be no more than a Disguise: In short in any present Accommodation with *France*, her holding her Hand will be no other than to take Breath to enable her to make a stronger Blow.

*The Consideration of these Things, hath all along prompted me (as an English Man) to use the utmost of my Endeavours in the Post I have stood in for so many Tears, to prevent the Designs of France on England, that those Things threatnea may be prevented, otherwise I had not appeared in Print at this Time, being rather enclined to be more Retire, especially when I Reflect upon the Discouragement and Difficulties I have met withal in my former Undertaking; of which I have given a short Account in the close of this Discourse, but more at large in another, written by me sometime since, for the clearing my self of some Malicious Imputations suggested against me in my said former Undertakings; nor did I however intend to be named in this Paper, when I put it to the Press; but finding my Name made use of in several Projects about Raising of Money, and in bringing in a Bill to lessen the Penalties about the Exportation of Wool; and which occasioned the Mistake of divers of my Friends, who thereby were induced to believe me concerned in Matters which were utterly against their Opinion; and indeed I may presume to offer my thoughts, will instead of preventing, be rather an Encouragement to the said Exportation; and if Experience for near Thirty Tears may be credited, there is nothing now wanting in Point of Law but Execution; and if there were a Thousand Laws made and not Executed, it is just the same as if none at all. These Reasons amongst others have prevail'd with me to Subscribe my Name, and to make use of this Opportunity to declare, That I am not Engaged in any of those Matters which my Friends might take to be against my former Opinion in this Case, and which, I believe, will rather redound to the prejudice than good of the Publick; not that I would be construed to Reflect upon any Person under Mistakes, being charitable to all; tho' in the following Discourse I have been somewhat sharp on those I judged to be willful Enemies to their own Trade and Nation.*

William Carter.



*The renewing of a CAVEAT Entred in our Court  
several Years agoe against the Growth of FRANCE.*

**A**Lthough it be beyond all Dispute, that the *French King* (who not many years ago was very considerable both in Trade and *Shipping*) is now become so formidable, as to be able to make War with so great a part of *Europe*, inso much that very lately he bid fair to be Emperor thereof.

And though the Matter of Fact be clear; yet it is by many made a Question, How so prodigious an Alteration should come to pass in so short a time. For notwithstanding it be notorious, that that King's Interest was very great in the two last Reigns, and thereby he obtain'd many Advantages here, not only Moulds of our best Ships of War, but some Materials for their Building; and had it not been for a great Man now of Their Majesties most Honourable Privy-Council, much of our best Timber had been long since in *France*: For the Dutches of *Portsmouth* having a Grant of Forty thousand Pounds, which was to be raised out of the Timber growing in the *New Forrest*, and that of *Sherwood*; his Lordship prevented that Mischief, which had it not been done with great Prudence, it would have been of a bad Consequence to *England*. For which he was suddenly after, and for espousing the Prince of *Orange's* Interest, condemned in the Court of *France*, and brought out of Favour here, (to the Honour of that Noble

Lord, let it be remembered for the Good of *England*, against the Designs of *France*.)

And although it be too true, that the said Dutches promoted the *French* Interest here, by which many Advantages were procured thereby from *England* to *France*, (which may be elsewhere enlarged) yet that was but as Flashes in a River, for a Season: But its Trade, that is the main Spring or Fountain that gives Life unto, and that doth maintain, Riches and Strength to any Nation, Kingdom, or People.

And though in Trade it self its generally reported, that *France* (by way of Barter) got from *England* upwards of a Million of Pounds Sterling per Annum, for several Years last past, which is only known by the Entries made in our Custom House Books; yet this (to those that know the Intrigues of that People) may not be the half in value of the Goods imported from *France*. For that which comes in by Stealth (and of such some Persons are so fond, as to give double if not treble the worth of it only to have the name of *French*) may be as much in the Sum, if not more than what is truly and really entered, which for the most part are bulky Commodities.

And as our Loss in the Trade with *France* is about Two Millions per Annum,

by the Importation of their Commodities here ; so its presumed, (on very good grounds ) that the Exportation of our Wool thither , unwrought , enriches *France* much more than all the Importation of *French* Goods into *England*.

So that if *France*, for upwards of twenty Years last past, hath gained only from *England* more than Four Millions *per Annum* (besides what that King hath gain'd out of other Countries by his Intrigues,) it is humbly presumed, the Question before stated (*viz.*) (How *France* in so short time became so great?) is in a great measure answered.

When on the other Hand, *England* ( if true to its real Interest ) might quickly turn the Scales, and beat *France* without Fighting, though not now. For there are but few Princes or States, that have such means to support their Splendor, as the Kings and Queens of *England*: Nor few (if any) Countries, such staple Commodities, as this Kingdom hath ; yet those Advantages were never as yet improved as they might be: And as to what might have been formerly done of this Nature, Sir *Walter Rawleigh* propounded to King *James* the I. that the Native Commodities of *England*, with other Traffick, might have been then improved Three Millions of Pounds *Sterling per Annum*, beyond what they then came to, and that the Revenue of the Crown might proportionably increase thereby. If Matters stood thus at that time, woful Experience tells us (as before mentioned) that the Case is now far worse: For instead of increasing, we have lost so many Millions by the Intrigues of *France*, which will more particularly appear in the sequel of this Discourse.

The most of the Goods, which are now yearly imported into this Kingdom, being to the Value of several Mil-

lions of Pounds *Sterling per Annum*, are no otherwise answered, but by the value of the Commodities which are exported; the Bulk of which consists chiefly in our Woolen Manufacture, as being the great support of our Trade and Shipping. For before King *Edward* the III. the *Burgunder* enjoyed that Advantage, in making of a Yard of Cloth, of *English* Wool cost Eighteen Pence, worth then Ten Shillings, to the enriching of that People, and advancing the Revenue of their Princes; which being perceived by the said King *Edward*, upon a Visit made by himself to the Duke of *Burgundy*; during his Residence there, he employed such able Agents amongst the *Flemish* Clothiers, so effectually representing to them the Danger they were in by the Bordering War with *France*, the peaceable Condition of *England*, and the Freedom of the People that are Subjects here, that he found them inclinable to accept an Invitation to come over hither, he promising them the same Privileges and Immunities with his own Subjects; by which Means he prevailed with a great number of them to come into *England* soon after him, where he most royally performed those Promises: He also called home many of his own Subjects, who had been long settled in *Flanders*; and then strictly prohibited the Exportation of Wool.

So the Trade of Cloth was then settled in *England*; but the Manufacture of Bays, Says, and Perpetuanies, &c. ( which is now almost half the Woolen Manufacture of this Kingdom ) was not set up here till the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, but was till then wholly carried on in *Flanders*, with *English* Wool; so that by these two Princes the Woolen Manufacture came to be settled in *England*: By which Means, as our Wealth came greatly to encrease, so we became more powerful in Shipping; which Greatness of our Trade, and Strength

of our Shipping, founded on that, hath been not only observed, but of late emulated by the *French King*. And seeing it was clearly discerned, that the chiefest Means for the Maintenance of it proceeded from our Woolen Manufacture, the said *French King* hath for several Years last past used all Means to get our Wool to *France*; and then prohibit the said Manufacture, which is of so great Concern to *England*. For the said Manufacture, being exported together with its Returns, doth pay more than three Fourths of the Customs; and consequently the same in proportion are the Ships and Seamen employed thereby; and it doth not only give Life to all Trade, but a Value to Land; by which Means also all other Branches of the Revenue of the Crown are proportionably increased. But my Lord Cook saith, that its much more: For, saith he, *Divide the Exported Native Commodities of this Kingdom into Ten Parts; and what comes from the Sheep's back is in Value Nine Parts*; which, as before hinted, the *French King* hath used all Arts and Means, for above twenty Years, to encourage this Woolen Manufacture in his own Dominions; not only to furnish his own Countrey, but to export it to Foreign Parts, which were formerly supplied by us; to the increasing of their Riches and Strength by Sea, (now so formidable) and then by so much the less Place or Probability there will be, that we should furnish them or export it into foreign Parts; and then also so much the greater Stop must of necessity be put to the vending of our Woolen Manufacture beyond the Seas; because there is a determin'd Quantity thereof consumed in the Trading World. And is it not as manifest, that by how much our Manufacture decays, our Trade and Wealth must decay; and the Strength of our Shipping mainly depending thereon,

must decay also? and consequently the Revenue of the Crown, not only in the Customs, but in all other Branches of the said Revenue that do depend upon Trade.

So that, if it be from our Manufacture that the Riches of this Nation comes, and if it be chiefly from thence that our Shipping is Employed, and our Mariners bred; if it be from our Trading alone, and from the Riches which our Trading brings in, that their Majesty's Customs are Raised, and that our Fleets have been hitherto Built and Maintained, and the Dominion of the Seas preserved, then it is and must be from our Manufactures, that our Trade is increased, and by which the Rents of the Nobility and Gentry have been advanced.

And therefore it may be easily granted, that there is no higher Temporal Interest in the Nation, than that which sustains the Nobility and Gentry's Rents, that which preserves their Majesties Revenues, and increases our Navy and Shipping.

Then in regard our Manufacture doth this, the Encouragement of it must necessarily be the greatest Interest of the Nation, to preserve it; but for the want of due care therein, the *French* have gained so much from us, as before mentioned, which hath so highly contributed to their Riches and Strength at Sea, and consequently to the Impoverishing of us, even the whole Kingdom of *England*: Which Evils I did not only long since foresee, but publickly declare above 20 years ago, and with some warmth too; and also, with no little Importunity, presented the same to King *Charles II.* and upon several occasions since, renewed the same, (*viz.*) that *France* was then Learning to be too hard for us, which is too too true to be denied: And as I did it to those in Authority; so I did it, also, both to the Merchants and Clothiers; and not resting there



there, I have also spent the greatest part of my small Estate, and therefore (as well as lost a profitable Trade) about it, with the frequent hazard of my Life, together with many and great Indignities, which I have born up under, because my Labour has not been altogether Fruitless: though by my Importunity, I have rendered my self Burdensome to some, a Scorn and Reproach to others, when I have only Reasoned in my Discourse, and publickly declared, what I had too much ground for, (*viz.*) that the Diligence of the *French* to enrich themselves upon us, hath so far exceeded our Care to preserve our selves, that it is come to, if not beyond, a Question, Who have the greatest benefit of the Manufacture of *English* Wool, (of so great consequence) They who have no Right unto it, or to whom of right it doth belong (as the very Foundation of all our Riches and Strength;) that it is so, is too too obvious, (*viz.*) that *France* will be too hard for us by the steps already made therein; desiring a serious consideration, and comparing the Practice of the *French* King (assisted by the Counsel and Advice of Monsieur *Colbert*, bred a Merchant) with what was done formerly by King *Edw.* the 3<sup>d</sup>, that as the said King *Edward* wisely transacted his Affairs in *Flanders*, in bringing over hither the Manufacturers to the Wool in *England*, so the said *French* King, by his Agents here, is using no less Policy in gaining our Wool to his Subjects for his own advantage; for without our Wool they could never imitate our Manufacture, all other Wool being insufficient for that use; but having our Wool in such great Quantities, even in the Years 1669, 1670, and 1671, that they gave out, that they could make as good Manufacture as ours; and further added, that they were got into a way of making a low sort of Cloth

called *Serge De-berry*, which comes as cheap as *Northern* Cloth, but made of *English* Wool.

After all these Transactions, comes forth an Answer by way of Objection against what I had done, Entitled, *Reasons for a limited Exportation of Wool*, pretending it was for *England's* Interest; which came forth in the year 1676. to which I made my *Reply*, which I shall not here insert, but only crave leave but to abstract the *Introduction* to that Discourse, (*viz.*) I must needs say, that I had no thoughts of appearing in Publick any more, and could not easily have been moved thereunto, (my discouragements having been so great) had not the importunity of some Friends dealing much in that Manufacture, and my Zeal and Affection to the Trade and Commerce of this my Native Country, (which is at present solely maintained by the *Woolen* Manufacture of it) raised my fears so far, as to believe a great Prejudice is coming upon us; and so far as to doubt also, that we may be hastning of it by those very Means, we would endeavour to prevent it.

And therefore I cannot, but, like the dumb Child, speak when he saw a Knife at his Fathers Throat; I mean when I consider the extremity we are like to be in, from the *French* Kings Vigilancy, and the endeavours that he hath of late used to acquire the making of the *Woolen* Manufacture in his own Dominions, and what Artifices, and vast Expence, he doth use and is at, to effect his said Design, both in *France*, and by his Agents here in *England*, even at this very day, notwithstanding he is engaged in a War with so great a part of *Europe*; and if he doth this in the very midst of his Distractions, what will he not do? or, what may we not expect hereafter, when he shall be at Peace with all his Neighbours?

And if the *French King* be designing by all ways and Means to undermine our Commerce, and by it prejudice us in our Trade, and Strength by Sea, I may, I hope, be pardoned, if I am more than indifferently concerned, or more than ordinarily warm, to think, we should endeavour to perfect his Design by delivering up our Wool, the Foundation of so Rich a Manufacture, into his hands; nor can we think hereafter to recover our Woollen Manufacture once lost, or to preserve the King's Customs or the Strength of this Kingdom, without it; for we must be very short-sighted if we understand not, that, after he hath supplied his own Country, he will also supply other foreign Markets (as already begun, which will appear by the Testimony of another hand which I shall add) to gain an advantage to himself; for if he may (as he already does) break the Laws of Commerce, and lay what Impositions he pleaseth, upon our Cloth, &c. (yea prohibit the same) while we had a Peace with him, why may he not also lay what Imposition he please upon our Ships that may come near his Territories?

And when our Commerce is lost, and our Manufacture gone, and our Ships imposed upon that shall pass the Seas, what shall be left to defend our selves from whatsoever he shall (for the Greatness of his Name) think fit to require of us?

Give me now leave to add the Testimony of another person, who wrote upon this Subject about the year, 77, but came lately to my hands, *Mr. Andrew Marvell*; who observes, *That the French, who were not long since at best but the Milliners of Europe, are now become, or pretend to be, the Cape-Merchants, and their King gives not only the Mode, but Garment to all Christendom, and the*

*World puts it self into his Livery at their own Expences; well may We therefore complain of the Death rather than Deadness of our Manufacture, when from this Cause it receives such an Obstruction even to Suffocation, when we are not only deprived of that general and gainful Vent that we had formerly in France it self, but in all other places where we Traffick, we meet the French at every Town, and the Foreign Post brings News from all parts, that they come before us, and have underfold us in the same Commodities.*

*And to this Disease so Mortal, and which is beyond any private Man to remedy, we do more particularly contribute by those vast quantities of Wool, which are Transported to France, so that Calice is still no less our Staple, than when it was formerly under the English Dominion..*

From the whole matter I then conclude, (*viz.*) in the year 1677. That not only the Clothing Trade, but the very Interest of the Nation was at Stake, and in hazard to be utterly lost; which there was just cause to suspect would come to pass, if the same were not with Industry and Diligence prevented; and if this all would not move us, I thought it then impertinent to insist on lesser Arguments; upon which consideration I was then, as also before, prompted singly as an *English-man*, to use my utmost Endeavour and unwearied Diligence, to try what might be done, towards the finding out some Method, that might prevent the threatened Ruin, (by the *French King*) and that some good part of what is lost may be regain'd (and why not that Kingdom be under the *English* Government, as well as part of the Tithes of our King.) These endeavours being used in the two late Reigns, in which I drew up the Hill, and

and strove against the Stream, yet, it's visible, I did many a time stem the Tide, till huge Torrents came down upon me, yet I did nevertheless recover again, though with hard Rowing; and in the very last year of the late King, when Addressing his Majesty with some Clothiers of *Exon* and *Taunton*, in behalf of 200, that then kept 100000 poor people at work, complaining of the *French* prohibiting the *English* Woolen Manufacture; after that Discourse was over, the King then told me, *That the French Ambassador had complain'd, that I had disturb'd the French King's Fishermen*, I did return this Answer, that I owned the Charge, and was glad of the Season (for I had heard before of Complaints of that nature, made at the *Treasury*, and at the *Custom-House*, where I made my Defence, and prevented the said Design) to give his Majesty an Answer, I did confess, that I had disturb'd them, by causing above 20 of them to be taken and condemned to his own use, for that they had broken the Laws, and came on shoar and fetch'd our Wool, that was the Fishing which was disturb'd; which I told his Majesty was the Foundation both of his Riches and Strength: and moreover I added, that had I not been greatly discouraged, those Gentlemen then present Addressing his Majesty, would not have had the occasion of giving him that trouble; this Relation is nothing but truth, the persons then present being my Witnesses.

I may without offence add, that the Season of this Address was such, that his Majesty was then, in a quarter of an hour af-

ter we came forth from his Presence, visited by Father *Peter*, Sir *Edward Hales*, and Sir *John Gage*, that came to intercede for three persons then Prosecuted for Exporting of Wool to *France*, one of which was the then Mayor of *Galloway*, who confess'd a Judgment of 22000 *l.* and the Earl of *Tyrconel* wrote in his behalf, but the said King reject'd the Motion; but the Matter was again endeavour'd at the *Treasury*, which I still watch'd, and put in *Caveats*, and prevented the design of his Discharge.

Now if I did go so far then, against the *French* Interest, shall I despond now in this Government, when not only *England*, but a great part of *Europe*, is in actual War with them? Now is the Season, in this very thing, to Humble *France*, which if we let slip, it's very probable, there may never be the like Opportunity.

But after all, I suppose another Question may arise; viz. How this may be done? I answer, though 'tis not in my power to do; yet to propose to such as can, I shall readily, as I have not omitted hitherto what lay in my power, in order to the compleating so great an Undertaking; but there are many things not so proper to be made publick, that may greatly contribute to the effecting so necessary a Work; which I shall not only offer (with all Submission) when called thereto, but really and indeed put in practice when commanded; and therefore desire to be excused from offering that to publick View, which may furnish *French* Agents with such Matter, as may render the whole abortive.



For tho' we have seen and too much felt the power of *France*, and that some persons are very apt to magnifie that Monarch, and yet the poverty of the generality of that People with the *Inland* Countries being Depopulated by which a great scarcity of Corn have been the effect thereof, and the great loss in their Trade at present, ought a little to be considered to balance their greatness.

And tho' we have too much cause to fear (but not despair) that we are in a languishing condition, yet when I have considered how near *Ireland* was lost, I would in my greatest despondency entertain some hope for *England* also: Tho' 'tis the fear of some, and too justly that without more than ordinary skill to abate the power of *France*, all our endeavours to that end will prove Fruitless.

There was a time, and that not long since, when *England* alone was able to Bridle that Prince and hold the Reins, so as to be able to have turned about that Monarch as it pleased; but now we see that neither *England*, or *Holland*, or both with their united strength at Sea, nor all the Confederates at Land, can as

yet give check to the Ambition of that aspiring King.

And altho' in *England*, we have formerly made several Acts to curb that Prince, and continued two of them lately, which were ready to expire, yet the experience of the time past hath demonstrated that little hath been done, and as little may be expected for the future, till those Acts are put into strict Execution, (without which they are dead and usefess) which if we design to do, we must resume that antient and generous Temper, that heretofore ran so freely, and did circulate in *English* Veins, which did preserve the liberty of free born *English*-Men, and not to suffer our selves to be imposed upon, and made Slaves to *France*, by our own folly, for if we expect to live by our Laws, as a free People, we ought to use the means to support them, by a strict Execution, and that cannot be well done, but by such persons, who will make it their Interest, as well as their duty to Execute the same, and also made capable of it.

And if our Predecessours, that were instrumental in procuring for us some of those great Privileges, which we now enjoy,

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were

were short of that experience which we have since attain'd to, it should call upon us to consider what may be expected from us, who have arrived to greater knowledge, and have more and better Laws to assist us, for our preservation, and thereupon we ought to Improve our Priviledges as a free People, and to have attained many more and greater advantages, since the Reign of that Famous Queen *Elizabeth*, whose Ministers agreed altogether against the common Enemy which was then the *Spaniard*, and tho' we have to our shame, lost many of those advantages, which was once in our hands, to have kept the *French King* lower, yet now if we were once true to our reall Interest we might give a great check, if not a turn to that Haughty Prince, but then there must be a great change amongst us, for notwithstanding our present War with *France*, and the prohibition of *French Commodities*, yet our general desire is for that which hath the name of *France* writ upon it (tho' we have already paid and like to pay dearer yet) wherein I need not descend to particulars; but insert one Parragraph out of Mr.

*James Whiston Discourse of Trade*, Printed the last Year, (*viz.*)

*But if there be a necessity that our Luxury must be indulged, there is nothing to that purpose that France could afford, which the Industry of our Friends and Confederates cannot supply us withal, having of late in their several Countreies set up some Manufacturers, which if the War continues, will be so Established, that neither we nor they shall ever stand in need of being beholding to France for them again, to the utter and Irreparable damage of that Kingdom. And thereby we shall vent greater quantities of our own Commodities in return for what we receive from them; whilst our Trade with France, did nothing but furnish us with Trifles in lieu of those vast Sums of Sterling they have drawn from us. And though we shall in a great measure enrich several of our Confederate Neighbours, as well as Advantage our selves, yet it will never put them into such a condition of doing us hurt as our Trade with France hath done.*

I will add another Parragraph out of the same Author, *viz.*

*Where Trade is, there will be Employment; where Employment is, thither*

thither People will resort; and where People resort, there will be a Consumption of Commodities, and thereby the Publick Revenue will be raised: So that would we once make Trade flourish we need not doubt but People from all parts of the Glob, would resort hither to enjoy themselves, and improve their Stocks, which formerly by reason of the Shackles upon Conscience, the continuance of which so long Depopulated this Nation, both by discouraging Ingenious Persons from repairing hither, and Cramping the Industry of others that remain by rendring them a prey to each other; which deadly wound did not end here, but Debauchery and Prophaness were encreased to such a degree, that the Nation was dissolved in Luxury, and Intemperance, whilst the French had the wit to take the Advantage of our negligence, by Encouraging Industry and Commerce; (which all the while we were labouring to overthrow and undervalue,) By which means, chiefly he is become so troublesome to us, and so dreadful to some of our Neighbours.

To stop this humour if we consider the many Millions France hath gained this way upon us, (as before alledged) we may observe

that as Trade in general is introduced by rational Methods, so it ought to be supported by the same means, and it should be so in this case, that as France hath gained upon us in our Trade, partly by stealth, and openly by imposing upon us, for the time past, so also we ought to consider the same for the future, and put no vallue upon their fancies, but more upon our substantial commodities which are staple, ceasing to Imitate their vain and wastful Fashions, for all other ways and means (were there a Peace) will be totally insignificant to us, for that Prince will not be held in by any other ways, unless it be in that wherein his strength lyes, which is Trade, (as before in short hinted) for otherwise (Samson like) he will break all other tyes of humanity, &c. And we at length shall be made both poor and miserable and tho' there is nothing (speaking generally) more certain, than that most persons pursue those things wherein they suppose their interest doth consist, yet 'tis as true that many times they are apt to mistake the way to that Interest, and if so, its no marvel those measures are



taken that tends to their great and inevitable prejudice.

That this is the case of too to many of our *English* Men in relation to *France*, woful Experience proves, and nothing is more plain than matter of fact, for as *France* and *England* about Forty Years ago had an equal Trade, supposing in vallue two Millions of Pounds *per Annum* each from other, so it is as true that within those few last years (even before the War) the Trade of the *English* Woollen Manufactuary was prohibited in *France*, but the Importation of *French* Commodities were rather more increased into *England*, that this is so is not to be denied, but how it is so, I shall endeavour (with submission) to demonstrate, but before I come to speak of that in general, would crave leave to be particular only in the County of *Kent*, where the great mischief is, and where I meet with the greatest opposition, whose People always pleads the loss to them by hindring the Exportation of Wool, I will therefore state the case thus, (*viz.*) That there was only *Kent* in *England* that did produce Wooll, and admit that there grows Yearly 6000 Packs, and

admit to be worth 10 *l.* per Pack, which amounts to 60000 *l.* and supposing for Arguments sake, that if it were freely exported (as desired by some) it would raise the price 40 *s.* per Pack, which amounts to 12000 *l.* whereas if the said Wool was wholly Prohibited, and fully Manufactured in *England*, and supposing in *Kent*, and there exported to *France*, and the same valued at 579999 *l.* in the particular sorts (as I have elsewhere more enlarged,) before its put on Board, let us now therefore compare the profit and loss of this County of *Kent*, (*viz.*) The Wool with its supposed advance vallued at 72000 *l.* and Manufactured to be vallued at 579999 *l.* so that the County of *Kent* would lose 502999 *l.* by that Trade: but I would come a little nearer to the Gentlemen in *Kent*, being owners of Wool by the Sea-side, and admitting for arguments sake, that the Land there would advance 10 *l.* per cent, *per Annum* more then in other parts, and supposing that one Gentleman had in value two or 300 *l.* per *Annum*, by the Sea-side, and the same Gentleman had two or 3000 *l.* per *Annum*, in an *Inland* Country

Country that depends upon Trade, and that for want of Trade those Rents were abated 20 *l. per cent*, I have no need to ask who was the loser; for what would it signifie to advance 10 *l. per cent, per Annum* on the Lands by the Sea-side in *Kent*, in a small Farm, and lose 20 on the Lands in a great one in the *Inland* Country, but more especially when that loss we in *England* sustain by it, proves double the advantage to *France*, our Mortal Enemies Country, for thither principal if not only and to the *French* Kings Dominions our unwrought Wool is Transported; I would upon this accompt close this Parragraph, with the preamble of that Act made in the 14th Year of King *Charles* the II. Prohibiting the Exportation of Wool: (*viz.*) *In these three respects, First for the setting on Work the Inhabitants of this Realm, Secondly for the Improving the Native Commodities of this Country, to its best fullest, and utmost use, and Thirdly that the advantage accruing hereby might redound, to the Subjects of this Kingdom, and not to the Subjects of Foreign Realms as hitherto, and as it would and otherwise must do.*

Altho' I have formerly oft reflected and sometimes hinted at our mischiefs, for want of consideration, what is the true and real Intréſt of *England*, and the necessity of putting those good Laws in Execution, and also repeated some part of Letters writ from some of our Merchants then living in *Flanders*; yet I would crave leave at this time, and in this place to insert one particuliar Letter that came to my hands in the Year 1670, Dated at Lile the 6th, of April, 1670. Informing us that they then gave out that they could make as good Manufacturs as ours, and that they were got into away of making a low sort of Cloth called Serge-Deberry, which comes as cheap as Northern Cloth, but made of English Wool, and that they had then made so much as to be able to Cloath a great number of their Army: And in another Letter from the same person, Dated the 5th, of March 1671, writing of the great quantities of Wool Imported into the *French* Kings Dominions, he adds unless some were made examples there would be continual abuses; about which time I did prosecute some Offenders, and gave some stop to it as I had

had done three Years before, which is confir-med in the same Letter, (*viz.*) *There is a City not Five Leagues from this, called Tournay, a place renowned for the making all sorts of Stockings of Wool, its not above Twenty Years ago that they betook themselves to make the Worsted Hose a Trade, which in my minority was considerable from London, its not above three years ago, that there was a scarcity of Kemberd Wool here in this quarter of the Country, and several of those Stocking Merchants came here to buy some, I told them, that such severity was then used in England, as People were mad to adventure (which was the time I first began to prevent it) which put the People of Tournay on a resolution to draw up a request to Monsieur Colbert, that he would make a defence of all English Manufacture, since they in England had put a stop to the Exportation of their Wool, to the great prejudice of the Manufacture of their City, after which those of this Town joyned with them, and so came a stop to the Trade which we enjoyed for some time, so that you can easily see how insensibly those Dover and Canterbury Transporters draw the Kingdoms hearts*

*blood from them; I could add much more of the great benefit our Neighbours receive from it which proves an absolute ruine, but I guess you can as easily comprehend my meaning, as if I had further enlarged: In a word, France rejects our Fabricks at this Day, presuming that they shall never want our Wool to make their own fantastick Fabricks, which are so variable, as puts a great stop to the Garrant demand that used to be of our more solid Fabricks, for they will pretend to give the mode to all the World, and so by this means in time all the World, will be disgust with our Fabricks, when by consequence they shall receive the mode from France, consider of this I pray that so there may be some speedy remedy; I shall hear take leave to repeat part of another Letter from the same person a little before mentioned, (*viz.*) Some of our English Men have the Reputation of betraying their Father for Two-pence, it's no marvel then that they will betray their Country; And as this was wrote to me above Twenty years ago, (which I also then Printed) so a late action which I saw my self, confirms the same temper in some English Clothiers,*



Clothiers, as well as others contrary to the common Proverb ) *it's a sory Bird that defiles his own Nest*, and being upon record, and my self both an Eye and Ear witness to the main part thereof, I shall venture to relate the matter of Fact, and make some observations thereon, being partly in my Post obliged thereunto: That as I have observed the Treachery, and falseness of some of our *English* Men for the space of Twenty Years and upward, to contribute so much to the setting up the Woollen Manufacture in *France*, by furnishing them with our Wool, so to discover the same Temper, hath visibly appeared, not only in some *English* Men, but also in Clothiers themselves, by countenancing the Exportation of Fullers-Earth to *Holland*, to compleat their full Improving the Woollen Manufacture in that Country, who appeared, not only as witnesses to prove a Negative (against many positive and substantial Witnesses) but rather acted like Soliciters, and Advocates for *Holland*, then for *Englands* Intrest, at two several Tryals in the Exchequer, as also at several Committes of the House of Commons, the conse-

quence of which must be wholly to destroy the *English* Woollen Manufacture, and consequently Trade it self, and to promote a Foreign Interest.

It may be looked upon as Monstrous, that any *English* Clothier should with so much Industry endeavour to ruin their own Trade, either for a Muint gain or private Friendship to any other person, and had not I been both an Eye and Ear Witness, I should not, could not, nor durst I be so bold thus to charge any Man, but am so tender of Persons as not to name them, fearing the Poor People might pull down their Houses about their Ears, when their poverty is so great for want of Work.

Tho' this charge being in general as to persons, yet I shall adventure to be particular in the matter of Fact. (*viz.*)

There having been for some Years several parcels of Clay Shipt off from *England* to *Holland*, in the name of Potters Clay, and some Years past, an Officer of the Customs made a seizure of a Vessel Loaden with it, as believing it to be fulling Clay, but the said Officer being poor was not able to deal with the Proprietor,

prietor, was forced to desist; and so it continued to be Exported, till about the Month of *January*, 1692, There being three Vessels Loaden with the said Clay, and Ry-ding at Ancor in the River of *Thames*, and entred in the Custom House of *London*, to be Exported thence to *Holland*, as Potters Clay, but some of the Officers being jealous that it was Fulling Clay, or scowring Earth, made a stop of it, and it coming to the Ears of the Searcher, whose said Office it is to look after the same, it being as well Felony in them to suffer it to be Exported (if it were Fulling Clay,) as in the Exporter, which Officers being as well Men of some Reputation as Experience in their Office (before any seizure was made to give the Merchant any needless trouble) caused Experiments to be made of the said Clay at several places and times, and found it to be a very good sort of Fulling Clay, upon which Experiments they caused the said Clay to be Landed, and put into their Majesties Seller, or Warehouse, and ordered the same to be laid in three distinct places, and then Exhibited an Information in the Court of

Exchequer against the Merchant for one of the said Ships Loading, on the Statute of XII. *Car.* which makes the Forfeiture three Shillings in the Pound, (as it is Felony by the XIV. of the same King, and the Officer is at Liberty to Prosecute upon which Statute he pleaseth, but not on both;) and tho' the Forfeitures was so great, yet the Officers were so tender of ruining the Merchant, that in case he would not continue Exporting of it, they would not take the Advantage of the Forfeitures, but he declining that offer the said Officers did prepare for Tryal; and in order to have more Experiments made of it, I was amongst others desired to take a parcel thereof out of the Warehouse, which I did, and kept in my possession until I had made an Experiment of it in the Country, in the presence of about Ten Clothiers and Fullers, and found it to be better Earth for their use than any that those Clothiers or Fullers had used, upon which Experiments the said Officers brought it on to a Tryal in *Hillary* Term 1692, And notwithstanding there were above Twenty Witnesses produced *viva voce*, and the Clothiers

Clothiers themselves (upon which the Experiments were made) were brought into Court, yet the Jury found it for the Defendant, the coullor for the Verdict being, that tho' Skowring Earth was named in the Title, yet it was not in the body of the Act.

That after this Verdict the Clothiers that were then present Petitioned the Queen in Council to order a Second Tryal, upon another of the Ships Loading, and although there were several other Experiments made not only at the same Mills as before, but also in more remote places, (*viz.*) In *Somerset*, *Glocester*, and *Worcestershires*; from which places Twenty seven Persons were then also produced, and the Cloths upon which the Experiments were made, not withstanding which, yet it had the same fate as the other Tryal had, the consequence of which will be very prejudicial not only in its self, but also in the seizures of Wool, and tho' those Officers were able to bear the charge of near three Hundred Pounds, yet its a great question whether any others will be at such vast expence to adventure to run such risks, for uncer-

tain gain (tho' it hath been familiar to me) which will be very bad to the Nation in the end.

I shall say the less here upon this head, because I have enlarged upon it elsewhere, wherein also I have in short hinted some of the obstructions and oppositions, I have met withal in this Affair, as those Officers have in this about Earth.

And tho' I am now growing Old, having spent almost Thirty Year, in the prime and strength of my time, (with much hazard cost and pains) and tho' in reason, I cannot expect my self to live and see its full effects, yet I hope to dye in the Faith that others may live to see *England* again flourish, and yet I would not omit any thing worthy of Imitation tho' in an Enemy, and therefore will relate one project of the *French* King, who hath within this Forty Years caused a Nursery of Young Oaks to be raised in a great part of *Brittain* that are now well grown for a Provision of Shipping against another Generation, which piece of good Husband like policy does both softly call us thither to nip his future Ships in the bud (the same way to beat him at the



Sea for hereafter ), and loudly upbraids the negligence of us now in *England*, whose posterity must needs complain of this present Age, that contents its self not with the providence of our Predecessours, but are rather in a prodigal and careless way of destroying that which they took so much care and pains to Erect.

And then another Advantage *France* hath over us is to encourage Industry, and discourage the contrary (*viz.*) to pay well, and punish well, when as the contrary is toomuch in use at this time.

I dread to name my fears ( if we are yet careless ) if *England* that hath been so famous to all the World, should now be given up to ruin, and be a prey to the *French* King, and thereby a scorn and a by word to the World, by the Evil practices of its own Natives, [whereas were we unanimously true to our real *English* Intrest against the common Enemy, we need not fear all the World. But on the other hand, if we persist in that careless way, ( and prefer private Intrest ) so much in use amongst us; what misery may be justly expected by us, when

we are so insensible of that Train that hath been so long laying by the *French* King's Intrest, to blow up those good Foundations ( which have been long laid by our Noble Ancestors ) of all our *English* Liberties, and Properties; or to expose us to a lingring Consumption, by a long and costly War.

Give me leave here to mention what those persons that are chiefly the Instruments of the great misery we are exposed unto, which consists of three sorts, (*viz.*) *First*, Such as are Pensioners to *France*; *Secondly*, Such as that nothing is valuable with, or pleasing but *French* Modes ( whose number is too great ) and *Thirdly*, Such who are employed to convey those Commodities from *France*, now at this time to *England* notwithstanding the War, which are all betrayers of their own Country. And tho' this Treachery be pleasing to, and desirable by our Enemies ( for which they may well laugh at us, ) yet the parties so doing cannot but expect to be hated by our very Enemies, even the *French* themselves, of which we may observe something of the like in former times

times (*viz.*) In the Reign of King *John* : As that King had intrusted the Defence of the Famous Castle called *Valle de Royal* in *France*, (then under the *English* Government) to two of his Nobles, that he thought he had confidence in, yet those persons, when the *French* King *Phillip* set down before it, before one Stone of the Castle was shaken, or any of their Men had lost the least hair of their Heads, they Dishonourably Surrendered the Fort; for which Treachery (tho so profitable to the Enemy yet) he commanded them to be Fetter'd in Chains, and basely intreated in close Prisons, till they had dearly redeem'd their Liberty. But on the other hand, in that story, 'tis pitty to omit an Instance of the Loyalty, Fidelity, and Resolution, of the Lord *Delacy*, (Governor of another *English* Garrison in *France*) who having received of King *John* the Custody of that goodly Castle *Rock Andley*, did bravely bear of the Siege, and power of King *Phillip* of *France*, and his Host, almost a whole Year, yet they could never make entry upon them; but were repulsed with slaughter, till his Provision of Victuals being spent, he called

his Souldiers together, encouraging them, that it was more noble for Souldiers to Dye Fighting than Famishing, and together with their own Lives, to Sacrifice to their Countries Honor, the blood slaughtered Enemies. Whereupon fiercely Sallying forth with his Resolutes, after a bloody shambles, made in the midst of his beleagers; he was by Multitude over-born and taken. But in regard of his Exemplary Faith and prowess in maintaining his charge, he was by King *Phillips* express command (tho' an Enemy) Honourably used, and without restraint of a Prison; yet this very King *Phillip* (just as *Lewis* now) shortly after used such Instruments to get other places; that he first corrupts them, that they might corrupt others to defection, with great rewards, and greater promises, that he might in time obtain the *English* Diadem from King *John*; (which was very near obtained at that time) in the mean time go *Roan*, and so all *Normondy*, which had been in the hands of the *English* Kings, (*viz.*) King *John* and his Predecessours, about Two hundred Year; and no less Treacherously dealt *Phillip* the *French* King with them, when he caught them

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with

with the Trap of glossing prof-  
 fers, causing without delay their  
 Cities goodly Walls to be utter-  
 ly demolished, and giving strict  
 charge never to be built again :  
 It may not be amiss to relate the  
 occasion why *Normondy* was so  
 soon lost to the *French* (and there-  
 by afterwards *Lewis Phillips* Son  
 to come here, as by and by more  
 of *Lewis* ) when King *John* had  
 notice of the *French* Kings design  
 on *Normondy*, he prepared a very  
 great Army, and Ships accord-  
 ingly to Transport them, and  
 when ready to Embark, *Hubert*  
 then Bishop of *Canterbury* (that  
 he might facilitate the *French*  
 Kings design) prevented that en-  
 terprise, threatening Excommuni-  
 cation from his Holiness at *Rome*,  
 if he attemptsd it: The like have  
 been by some others done, by  
 hindring our attempts upon the  
*French*, when opportunities have  
 been offered; but to return by  
 King *John's* being hindred from  
 going to *France*, and loosing so  
 much expence here, and his In-  
 trest in *Normondy*; by which  
 means and his adhearing to *Rome*,  
 the Barons War began, which  
 gave opportunity for the *French*  
 King *Phillip* to put in Execution  
 what he did aim at before, (*viz.*)  
 The Crown of *England*, and to

that end his Son *Lewis* (being  
 invited) came over with an Army,  
 and after great destruction by  
 that War, as King *John* was going  
 from *Lynn*, in *Norfolk* to give  
*Lewis* Battle, as he was passing  
 the washes in *Lincoln-shire*, with  
 his Army in those Sands, all his  
 Carriages, Treasure, and Pro-  
 vision (himself and his Army  
 hardly escaping) were Irrecover-  
 ably lost; many likewise were  
 the grievances into which the  
 Barons the mean while were  
 plunged, to see their Native Coun-  
 try thus horribly Massacred,  
 their own Castles, and Possessi-  
 ons ruined by the King, and  
 which bred in them most Anxiety  
 their Faithful service (in their  
 Faithless adherance) not so re-  
 spected by *Lewis* as he and their  
 foreruning hope had promised  
 them, while he conferred only on  
 his *French*, all such Territories  
 and Castles, as the hand of  
 Victory had lent him, but their  
 distress were yet greater than  
 those their jealousies could com-  
 prehend, till a Noble *French* Man  
 ( *Vicont de Modan* ) a Man of  
 great esteem with *Lewis*, having  
 his Soul in his Sickness deadly  
 wounded with the Sin of his  
 Health, desired private confer-  
 ence on his Death-bed in *London*,  
 with

with those *English* Barons, to whom *Lewis* had committed the Custody of that City, to whom he imparted, what lamentable desolations, and unsuspected ruines hung over their Heads; for that *Lewis* with sixteen other his chief Earls and Barons, whereof himself was one, (avowing it on the Salvation of his now departing Soul) had taken an Oath, if ever *Englands* Crown was settled on his Head, to Condemn unto perpetual Exile, all such as now adhered to him against King *John*, as Traytors to their Sovereign, and all their Kindred in the Land utterly to Extirpate. So Coucelling them timely to prevent their misery, which by the sudden Death of King *John*, and Crowning *Henry* the Third was accomplished, and then *Lewis* was forced to be gone, which had not King *John* been taken away so soon, great misery had then befallen *England*.

I would upon this occasion crave leave to look back and consider how seasons and opportunities, have been neglected to have given that common Enemy of mankind a very great check, and freed *England* from those losses, lately in our *Turky* Fleet, and and fears of more, who knows

how things may be for the future, or who may hereafter call any thing their own, things are so uncertain whether we believe it or no; I wish I may be deceived in my fears.

I would upon this occasion (as being not Impertinent) recite a passage that the *Turkish* History affords us; (*viz*) That at the taking of *Constantinople* by *Mahomet* the Great, at which time the Riches of the Conquered were no better then poverty, and beauty worse than deformity; but to speak of the hidden Treasure there found passeth credit. The *Turks* themselves wondering thereat, whereof if some part had in time been bestowed upon the defence of the City, the *Turkish* King had not so easily taken both it and the City. But every Man (as now here) was careful how to encrease his own private wealth, few or none regarding the publick state (its still our case) until in fine every Man with his private abundance, was wrapped together with his needy Neighbour, in the self same common misery; yet the security of the *Constantinopolitans* was such, that tho' being always environed with their Mortal Enemies, yet had they no care of



Fortifying of so much as their Inner Wall of the City, but suffered the Officers which had the charge of it to convert the greatest part of the Money into their own Purses, as appears by one *Manuel Geogrius*, a little before a very poor Man, and likewise by *Neophilus* an Officer, who had in a short time gathered together Seventy Thousand *Florens*, which becometh a worthy prey unto the greedy *Turks*.

Upon the whole matter I must conclude, that if our Intrest, and the Glory of our Nation be things of value, I humbly submit to better Judgments, whether the things before mentioned duly considered, and timely Improved be not the properest way to promote the one, and preserve the other.

If it be granted by the wisest of *Lawyers*, that a mischief is better than an Inconvenience, some Men ought (if necessity requires it) to suffer, rather than the whole Nation.

Supposing also that our Manufactures, and the encouraging of it, is the main and chief (if not the sole and only Intrest of the Nation) then no Intrest besides can, or ought in reason to stand in composition with it;

which if it should, it is simply impossible, that either our Trade, and Navigation should be preserved, which must and will certainly and effectually bring an utter destruction both to the *Commerce*, *Strength*, and *Shipping* of this Kingdom.

We have small reason to expect our Neighbours (who are now our Rivals) should help us, or pity us, when we do wilfully contribute to the ruine of our selves, and may (if we will) either prevent it, or easily remedy it.

And indeed if our all being at stake (I mean the very Intrest of the Nation it self) will not move us to alter our general Temper, I think it would be very Impertinent to insist upon lesser Arguments.

And therefore, though it would be for the Interest of the Nation greatly, to arrest this occasion (I mean the cheapness of Wool, and War with *France*) to beat out the *French* in their Foreign Trade, of our Manufactures, and by underselling them at least abroad.

And though this might now more easily be done then ever, seeing our *Manufacture* is Improved of late *Tears*, in the goodness

goodness of it ; and might soon (if we would not be wanting to our selves) be brought to an absolute perfection.

And though it be but equal and and just to forbid the Commodities of *France* (had we Peace) who did refuse (before the War) to deal with us for our Woollen *Manufactures*, or by Exorbitant, and Arbitrary Impositions laid upon them, did in Effect Prohibit them ; and though the doing of this, is but agreeable to the Rules of Justice, and to the Laws of Nations, and of Commerce.

Though also it cannot be denied, that it may be consistent with the publick Good of the Nation, to make sumptuary Laws, and to restrain the Excess that is at present amongst us, yet I most humbly crave leave to say, That this is but like the taking much pains, to stop the Leaks of a Barrel, and let the Liquor run out of the Bung, while we neglect the main Foundation, *viz.* The Publick Interest and Benefit of the Commonwealth in general to promote any single and private Design.

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## POSTSCRIPT.

AND tho' I have in the foregoing Lines, in general, stated the Gains of *France* from *England*, within these Thirty Years; and tho' I have also in short named the County of *Kent*, by stating a Case to be compar'd Profit and Loss ; yet I shall here crave leave to be more particular therein, *Viz.*

That the Cities of *Exon* and *Norwich* (alone) Exported to *France* in *Serges*, *Perpetuanoes*, and *Stockings*, the Value of Five Hundred Thousand Pounds *Sterling per Annum* ; and from *Dorsetshire* great quantities of *Bays* and *Cottons*, not only made in that County, but also in the West of *Somerset* : And from *Southampton* great quantities of *Cloth-Rashees* made there and at *Rumsey*, were Shipp'd off to *France*. From *Hull*, great quantities of *Yorkshire-Kerfies* and *Lancashire-Bays*, were Exported thence, besides what was Ship'd off from *London*, of all those sorts before mention'd, and also *Broad Cloth*, *Welch Cottons*, &c. in so much, that a Merchant of my Acquaintance in that City, had Commission for the buying up the Value of Fifty Thousand Pounds *Sterling per Annum* ; and if One Man had Commission for so much, we may rationally conclude, That others might be considerable, besides our own Merchants in *London*, that had Factors there in

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*France* ;

*France*; all which Trade were lost before the War was begun with that Kingdom, which was principally the Effect of the Exportation of *Wool*.

Having been thus particular in the Damage we have already receiv'd by *France*, through our Negligence, I shall also crave leave to give a few Instances amongst many of my Endeavours, to prevent it, *viz.* That by the Observations I had made in the Year 1667, and part of 68, of the Crafts and Designs of *France* (as formerly more at large appeareth) I humbly Proposed to the late King *Charles* the Second, several things that to me seem'd the most conducive to hinder so ill an Effect, and to restore our Trade to its former Flourishing Condition; which being referred to the *Council for Trade* to Examine, they upon hearing of my Proposals, were pleas'd to Testifie their Approbation, by their Report, *viz.*

"**W**HEREAS in pursuance of an Order of this Board, of the 20th of *November* last, Referring to the *Council of Trade* the Proposals of *William Carter*, for preventing the Exportation of *Wool*, the said Council having returned their Report to the Board, That having Discours'd with the said *William Carter*, and such other Persons, as they thought capable of giving them any good Information, touching this Matter, they find the Exportation of *Wool* is of a destructive Consequence to the Trade of this Kingdom; and that the same hath grown in to Practice, as well by reason of the Doubtfulness and Provisions in the Statute made in the 12th Year of His Majesties Reign, Prohibiting the Exportation of *Wool*, as by the Neglect and Remissness of Officers, in not putting the Laws in Execution.

*White-Hall, Council-Chamber, The Second of April, 1669.*

Pursuant to which Report, Sir *Olando Bridgman*, the Lord-Keeper, in the beginning of the Year, 1669. brought into the *House of Lords* a Bill to Explain some Words in the Statute of the 12th Car. II. Which are Explain'd in an Act lately made in the present Reign.

Which Bill I have Solicited; and during my Attendance, was Inform'd by One of their Lordships (yet Living) That One Hundred Thousand Pounds were offer'd for leave to Export *Wool* to *France*, which Design tho' (by some lucky Accident) did not take Effect. Yet that Interest so far prevail'd, as to get me into Prison, only for Printing some Reasons of my Proceedings, on pretence of wanting the Form of a *Licence*; and during my Imprisonment, the Bill before mentioned, was so much Clogg'd as to miscarry; notwithstanding which, I proceeded in the interval of Parliaments to Watch the Sea-Coast; and tho' betwixt the



the Merchants in *Callice* and their Correspondents here, a considerable Purse of Money was Collected, and Lodg'd at *Dover* to wage War with me (which I felt to my Cost) yet I so far succeeded, as to put a great stop to that impending Mischief, by discovering divers of the Exporters, and Prosecuting them on Two several Statutes, *viz.* That of the 12th Car. II. which makes the Forfeitures Three Shillings *per* Pound, besides the *Wool*; and the other of the 14th of the same King, which makes it Capital; of which I shall here insert an Abstract of of a Report and Certificate, and of a Letter from *Flanders*, Confirming the Effects of my Prosecution, notwithstanding the Defects of the Laws suppos'd; and first from a Second Report from the late Lord Chief Baron, Sir Edward Turner, to King Charles the Second, in these Words, *viz.*

May it please your most Excelent Majesty, in Obedience to Your Majesties Second Order of Reference, bearing Date the 20th of Decembar Last, I have Considered of the Matter to me Referred, and have Discoursed with the Petitioner about his Charges &c. in Prosecuting the Transporters of *Wool*; whereby it appears, That during this Four Years last past, wherein he hath brought into Your Majesties Exchequer about Eight Hundred Pounds more than in former Years had been Receiv'd, but there be many more Informations still depending, if prov'd, may bring in a greater Sum; but without some Supply at present from Your Majesty, he will not be able to proceed with them.

January 3. 1671. Edward Turner.

Upon which Report I had Three Hundered Pounds paid me towards my former Expençe, which was almost Eight Hundred Pounds, of which I then Expended about Two Hundred Pounds in further Prosecutions that Year, some of which were at the *Affizes*, as appears by the Abstract of a Certificate, *viz.*

These are to Certifie, That at the General Goal-Delivery holden at Maidstone in the County of Kent, the 12th of March, 1671. Edward Nichols Mariner, was Convicted of Felony for Transporting of *Wool*. And that on the First Day of August 1672, Thomas Knight, Nicholas Davis, and Thomas Stoner, were Convicted of Felony for the like Offence; and that William Carter did on his Majesties behalf Attend the respective Tryals of the said Nichols, Knight, Davis, and Stoner, for the respective Felons aforesaid, and did manage the Evidences against them, and thereupon cause them to be Prosecuted and Convicted for the said Felons aforesaid.

Given under my Hand the 22th of April, 1676. Tho. Lee Clerk of the *Affizes*.

And as those Persons were Convicted as aforesaid; so there were about Twenty more Continued, and bound over to the next *Affizes*; but an Act of Grace discharg'd the said Offenders at that time; and some Officers Compounding with those Prosecuted in the *Exchequer*, that gave Encouragement to the Offenders afterwards to continue that evil Practice; but by the aforesaid Prosecutions, a

great stop was then made to the said Exportation; as may appear by a Copy of a Letter writ to me from *Lille*, Dated *March 1671. viz.*

*There is a City not Five Leagues from this, called Tournay, a Place Renown'd for the making of all sorts of Stockings of Wool; it's not long ago, since that there was a scarcity of Wool in this Quarter of the Countrey, and several of those Stocking-Merchants came hither to buy some; I told them, That such Severity was us'd in England, that People were mad if they did Adventure.*

So that it's apparent, the Law was not so defective as 'tis suggest'd, but the Prosecution being vigorous, a stop may be made thereunto; as another Instance may be given by and by in the late Reign.

That upon those Prosecutions, Complaint was made to Monsieur Colbert, by the *Woollen-Manufacturers* at *Lille* and *Tournay* (in *French-Flanders*) That a stop was put to their Gainful Importation of *English* and *Irish Wool*; which being by him represented here in *England*; the Assistance I had from King *Charles*, in Vessels at Sea, and Horse, as my Guard at Land, was recalled (as well as my Imprisonment, before-mention'd.) so I was forc'd to desist.

That in the Years 1676 and 1677, the *French* Interest continued so much to prevail, under a Disguile, That when the *Parliament* was endeavouring to pass an Act to prohibit all *French* Commodities, to prevent the Growth of *France*; nevertheless comes out a Paper in Print to invalidate all my Endeavours, and in the Front of which, I was somewhat Exposed. The Title was, *Reasons for a limited Exportation of Wool.* The Introduction runs thus, *viz. Reflecting upon the great Misery of this Nation, by the Cheapness of Wool, and thinking of some Remedy, found my Design opposed by several Pamphlets, under the Name of W. C. and chiefly by one he calls England's Interest. I have here endeavoured to winnow his handful of Corn, from abundance of Chaff, I repli'd (as before hinted) and frustrated that Design at that time; as also another Design the following Year, in lessening the Penalties of former Acts.*

In the Year 1684, I was again importun'd by divers Eminent Merchants, Factors and Clothiers, to proceed in that Service; and tho' those great Oppositions I met with, were a sufficient Discouragement, yet I proceeded, and by my Care, a considerable Check was given to those Evils, in causing near 300 bags of *Wool* to be Seized and Condemned, and much more cast over-board into the Sea, and Twenty *French* Vessels, besides some *English*, to be also Taken and Condemn'd; insomuch, that *Wool* rise at that time in *Callice*, above 30 per Cent. which occasion'd a further Complaint against me from the *French* Embassador, to the late King *James*, who was pleas'd himself to tell me of it, and to hear my Answer to that Charge, as before appears.

That

That afterwards, continuing to Prosecute some of the Exporters, I was Assaulted in my Lodgings at *Rumney* and *Lidd*, Two several Nights, one after another, and some of my Men dangerously Wounded; and the Day following, going to *Rye*, was pursued by above One Hundred Horse-Men, and was forced to leave my Horses on the Sea-side, where One was killed, and the rest taken, and my Self and Men narrowly Escaping, as appears by the following Affidavits

ABSTRACTS of the Affidavits of several Persons Employed to prevent the Transportation of WOOL, &c.

**JAMES WEBB** and *John Edwards*, being Employed to prevent the Transportation of *Wool*, was on the 11th instant *December*, required to Execute a Warrant from the Lord Chief Justice, against several Exporters, living in and about *Rumney*, and afterwards being informed, that there was design'd that Night 30 packs of *Wool* to be shipp'd off, of which they design'd to Seize; but to prevent their Intentions, these Deponents, with some others, were Arrested with feign'd Actions: That on the 12th came about Twenty of the Exporters with Arms, being led on by *John Slaughter*, one of the Persons taken up the Day before, on the said Warrant, and bound over to the Assizes; upon which Mr. *Carter* sent to the Mayor to disperse those Persons, and keep the Peace; which Mayor being a Favourer of the said Exporters, refused, so we was forc'd to keep our Lodging for several hours, 'till one of the Jurats, and a former Dealer with Mr. *Carter* had prevail'd with the Mayor, to disperse the said *Slaughter* and Company, and then we went to *Lydd*, where they were Assaulted twice that Evening, and some of us dangerously Wounded; and afterwards about Twelve a Clock that Night, came to our Lodging a great Company, both of Horse and Foot, firing several Shot, and threatening of us; and had not Mr. *Carter* dissuaded us from firing upon them, there had been much Blood spilt that Night.

The next Day, these Deponents, with Mr. *Carter* and Company, were pursued towards *Rye*, by a great many Horse-Men; and had not there been Boats to take them in, we might have been destroyed. *John Edwards* farther saith, There being two of our Company left with the Horses to go over the *Ferry*, were pursued by the Horse-Men, which forced those Men to get into a Boat, and leave the Horses on the *Beach*; one of which were killed, and the rest taken.

*James Atkins* saith, That he saw a party of Horse, the 13th instant *December*, follow Mr. *Carter* and his Assistance, intending, as he believeth, to do some Mischief to them; for that they fired at them, as they got into a Boat, some of the Bullets dropping by the Boat-side.

*John*



*John Syer* Mariner, maketh Oath, That being Employed in a Vessel to prevent the Exportation of *Wool*, was on the 12th of this instant *December*, required with others, to Assist in the Execution of the Lord Chief Justices's Warrant against several Exporters of *Wool*, living at *Rumney*, came that Day to *Lidd*, in order to go to *Rye*, on board their Vessel then lying at Anchor there, and about Eight or Nine of the Clock that Night, at the request of *Mr. Carter*, were going towards the Sea-side, to prevent the Exportation of *Wool*, intended to be then Transported, and as this Deponent and Company were going through the Street, they were set upon by several Persons unknown, by whom some of us were Wounded after which time a great Number of Men came to our Lodging, firing several times at us, and also threatning of us.

And the next Day was pursued by a great Number of Horse-Men Arm'd; and had not the Boats belonging to several Vessels taken us in, we might have been all destroyed.

*Randal Goffey* maketh Oath, That on the 13th instant *December*, there being a great Body of Horse on the *Camber* near *Rye*, the Magistrates sent some Persons in a Boat, to discover who they were, and understood they intended some Mischief to *Mr. William Carter*, and his Assistance, who had taken up some Persons for Transportation of *Wool*; these Horse-Men following them so fast, that *Mr. Carter's* Men could not get their Horses over the *Ferry*, but left them on the *Camber-Point*; and being afterwards sent by the said *Mr. Carter* to look after the Horses, went as far as *Lidd*, where one *Slaughter* own'd the Horses to be in his Custody, and would keep them for Damages pretended to be done him by the said *Mr. Carter*; And further said, that his Name was *Slaughter*, and a *Slaughter* he should find of him; and that others then in Company of the said *Slaughter* said, That they would Secure his Body, and some others his Soul; for that neither was his own.

*Jurat coram me Tresime,*  
*Die Decembres Anno.*

Dom. 1688.

*John Spaine Mayor*

*These are all True Copies of the Original upon Record, here Examined by me Henry Darington Town-Clerk, and Publick Notary of the Antient Town of Rye, in Suffex.*

This Deponent maketh Oath, That upon the 13th Day of *December* 1688, He was importun'd by *James Hunt* and other Transporters of *Wool* about *Rumney*, to pursue *Mr. William Carter*, who suddenly after met with a great Number of Men, about One Hundred, who went after the said *Mr. Carter* and his Men towards

towards Rye; and had they not gone into some Boats, Mr. Carter would have received some hurt; for many of the Exporters were Desperate Fellows, not caring what Mischief they did.

\* William Ralph.

*Jurat coram* Jo. Moore, Mayor, Septemb. 1. 1690.

THEse are to Certifie, That the aforesaid Affidavits are all True, being present, and an Eye Witness of all those Transactions: For that I going along with Mr. Carter from London, to assist him in the execution of the Lord Chief Justices's Warrant against several Persons which were taken in the Fact, as they were going to Export *Wool* in the Night-time; some of whom, to free themselves, discovered others, to the number of about Twenty: And whereas it was a very difficult thing to take up those Persons, they generally having the Countenance of their Neighbourhood, the said Mr. Carter, having several Vessels under his Charge and Care to look after, and prevent the said Exportation, some of them Riding near Rye, he directed about Twelve Seamen to meet him at Rumney, and to come in there Four in a Company in the Night-time, to keep his Design private, and the next Morning placed Two at each Door, in the Street, to prevent the Escape of the Offenders, and then required the Constable to keep the Peace in the Execution of the said Warrant, which was the occasion of the Mayor being a Favourite of the Offenders, refusing to take Notice of the Persons that came the next Day to Assault Mr. Carter and his Company, being led on by John Slaughter, one of the Persons bound over to the Assize, who had the Repute of a very dangerous and desperate Man, and an old Transporter; and the Night after, the Exporters were bound over to the said Assize, he was endeavouring to cause a Mutiny amongst the Seamen Employed by Mr. Carter.

The next Day when we were preparing to leave Rumney and go to Rye, the said Slaughter, with his Assistance before-mentioned, in James Webb and John Edwards Affidaved we were forc'd to stay about six hours in Rumney, before we could stir out of our Lodging, and then it was we escaped, by the Interest Mr. Carter had in one of the Magistrates that he had formerly deal'd with for *Wool*; and when we came to Lidd, the same Evening, being not above three Miles from Rumney, we met with some Persons near the Town, Riding out, which we understood were preparing for Transportation of *Wool* that Night, which afterwards proved true; for when the time came, about Eight or Nine a Clock, our Company went out, some on Horseback and some on Foot, designing to go to the Sea-side and endeavour to prevent them; and as soon as we were out of our Lodging, we were fired at by several Persons unknown, and my self being upon Mr. Carter's Horse (which was well known) was in particular shot at, but they miss'd me, the Bullets coming over my Head, which we saw the next Day fix'd in a Beam

of

of the Barn, several of our Company being Wounded: Mr. *Carter* dissuaded us from going further at that time, because they knew our Strength, but we did not know theirs; so they had the liberty to accomplish their Design that Night, and at their return from their Work, about Twelve of the Clock that Night, their Company then appearing by the very Light that their firing made, to be a far greater Company than ours; nevertheless, if Mr. *Carter* had not then used some Arguments to the Seamen he had for his Assistance, they would have been Reveng'd for the Wounds they had receiv'd the Evening before, tho they had lost their Lives in it; for those Exporters Challeng'd us, saying, *Come out you Dogs, the Owles* (viz) *the Wool-Flyes*. The next Morning Mr. *Carter* having sent to some of the Houses of those Persons he was inform'd were the Offenders, and found their Horses in the Stables, and the Boots lying very Dirty, concluded they were in Bed, so we hasted away altogether, till we came near the Sea-side, and then Mr. *Carter* and *James Web*, before-nam'd, and my self, did Ride before (leaving Two Horses to carry the Wounded Men) that the Boats might be ready to take them in belonging to the Ships, and my self and one more staid with the Horses to go to the *Ferry*; but so it fell out, that we Riding by the Sea-side, saw a Hoghead floating, which we got upon shore, which proved to be *White-Wine*, which was advantageous to us; that tho' our men had broach'd it, yet their Company that followed, staid to drink it up, by which means all got into Boats, but my self, and he with me that had the Horses, very narrowly escaping; for we had not time to take off all the Saddles and Bridles, our Adversaries firing at us, the Bullets falling by the Boat-side, whereby we were forc'd to leave our Horses, being Five, to their mercy, who killed one of them which could not leap, the rest got away, but were afterwards taken by them, and kept for some time, till the Mayor of *Rye* wrote to them about it, and so we had our Horses again much hurt. Afterwards Mr. *Carter* having discovered many of those Rioters, Indicted them at the next Assizes, and the Bill was found against them; but before next Assize, an *Act of Grace* pass'd, after which time when they were Discharged by the *Act of Grace and Pardon*, they Imprison'd several of those Persons Employed to prevent *Exportation of Wool*, on frivolous pretences, and detain'd them a long time before they could be remov'd by *Habeas Corpus*, one of which being my own Brother, who fell Sick and Lame, during his Abode in that Countrey, and is since Dead; and others undone, and forc'd to quit this Service.

ROBERT TOOKET.



FINIS.



